



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

**Local woman sentenced to 10 years in federal prison
for harboring Korean women to work in her sexually oriented businesses**
Defendant also ordered to pay a \$460,000 fine and forfeit property

DALLAS — A local woman was sentenced today in federal court to 10 years imprisonment and ordered to pay a \$460,000 fine following her conviction for harboring illegal aliens for the purposes of prostitution. This sentence was announced by U.S. Attorney Richard B. Roper, Northern District of Texas, and following an investigation by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE).

Mi Na Malcolm, aka “Sora,” age 38, a Korean woman who owned and operated three sexually oriented businesses (brothels) in Dallas, pleaded guilty in March 2006 to one count of conspiracy to hold or harbor illegal aliens for purposes of prostitution, one count of harboring illegal aliens for commercial advantage and private financial gain, and one count of bulk cash smuggling. She has been in custody since her arrest in August 2005 when officers from the Dallas Police Department and ICE special agents executed several search warrants at sexually oriented businesses in Dallas.

U.S. Chief District Judge A. Joe Fish, in departing upwards from the U.S. sentencing guidelines, imposed the sentence. Malcolm is also required to forfeit to the U.S. government a 2006 BMW 525i, a 2004 Lexus LS430, \$218,906.99 in U.S. currency, assorted sexual paraphernalia, and assorted computer and electronic equipment — property which was either proceeds from or used or intended to be used in the commission of her offenses.

U.S. Attorney Roper said, “Mi Na Malcolm preyed upon some of society’s most vulnerable individuals — frightened runaways and illegal immigrants who are trapped in a cycle of violence, prostitution and forced labor. The sentence imposed upon Malcolm today should serve as a warning to all who would traffic in and harbor illegal aliens — you will be found and you will pay the price.”

“The illegal business that Ms. Malcolm operated capitalized on aliens smuggled into the United States, primarily from South Korea,” said John Chakwin, Special Agent in Charge of the ICE Office of Investigations in Dallas. “Malcolm’s arrest, conviction and today’s sentencing have already sent strong signals to the illegal sex industry that harboring, smuggling and trafficking in aliens will produce serious legal consequences. Our ICE special agents are fully prepared to initiate similar investigations to those who don’t heed that message.”

In filed court documents, Malcolm admitted that from November 2004 through mid-August 2005, she and others conspired to hold, or attempt to hold, illegal aliens for the purpose of prostitution. She paid to other conspirators the smuggling debts of several Korean women who had been smuggled into the United States, or who had become indebted for their transportation into the United States, for prostitution. Then she had the women work at one of her three sexually oriented businesses in Dallas, including the Ruby Spa, the Venetian Body Work and the Palm Tree Relaxation, to have them pay off their debts and for her own financial benefit.

Malcolm admitted that she housed a number of aliens in the same places where they worked in her sexually oriented businesses; monitored their movements in person or through an escort, and via video surveillance; and otherwise attempted to control their movements. She directed the women to work as prostitutes for six to seven days a week, and many were required to be available for prostitution 24 hours per day.

Malcolm maintained records of many of the women’s earnings and payment of their debts. On multiple occasions Malcolm warned the women that they were not free to leave unless and until they had paid off their smuggling debt, as well as debts that she claimed they owed for rent and food.

With respect to the bulk cash smuggling charge, Malcolm admitted placing a box containing \$60,000 in U.S. currency in the mail on April 25, 2005, addressed to her father in Korea. Malcolm filled out the required U.S. Postal Service Form 2976-A for mailing the box, and declared that the contents were “snacks and cookies.” Malcolm admitted she knew she had a legal duty to file a report of the amount of the currency transported and she knowingly failed to do so, with the intent to violate the law.

U.S. Attorney Roper praised the investigative efforts of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Dallas Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Sarah R. Saldaña and John DeLaGarza, Northern District of Texas, and Department of Justice Trial Attorney J. Evans Rice III.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.